

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5573

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, KS

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PAK TO PRESIDENT FORD ON ROK
UN MEMBERSHIP

REFS: A. STATE 171124, B. SEOUL 5362, C. SEOUL 5474, D. SEOUL 5574

1. ON JULY 23 MOFA PASSED US COPY OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PAK TO PRESIDENT FORD URGING USG TO PRESS FOR LINKAGE BETWEEN VIETNAMESE AND ROK APPLICATIONS FOR UN MEMBERSHIP. (TEXT OF LETTER BEING SENT SEPTTEL.) LETTER CABLED JULY 23 TO ROK EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY BY AMBASSADOR HAHM THROUGH DEPARTMENT.

2. IN LETTER, PAK REVIEWS ROKG POSITION THAT BOTH ROK AND NORTH KOREA SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO UN. NOTING THAT SECURITY COUNCIL WILL SHORTLY CONSIDER APPLICATIONS OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM, HE EXPRESSES HOPE THAT SC WILL AT SAME TIME APPROVE MEMBERSHIP FOR NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. IF NORTH REFUSES TO BECOME UN MEMBER, THEN SC SHOULD APPROVE MEMBERSHIP OF ROK.

3. REGARDING U.S. ROLE, PAK STRONGLY URGES USG TO SUPPORT SIMULTANEOUS SC CONSIDERATION OF VIETNAMESE AND KOREAN APPLICATIONS AND TO EXPRESS ITS "FIRM INTENTION TO OPPOSE THE ADMISSION OF TWO VIETNAMS UNLESS THE ROK IS ALSO ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP."

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4. LETTER, TOGETHER WITH OTHER APPROACHES WE HAVE HAD ON THIS MATTER, (REF A, B AND C) MAKES IT CLEAR THAT ROKG CONSIDERS LINKAGE A CRUCIAL FACTOR IN ITS HOPES FOR UN MEMBERSHIP AS WELL AS A SIGN OF ITS ABILITY TO RELY ON U.S.

SUPPORT. IT SEES VIETNAMESE APPLICATIONS AS RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS FOR ITS OWN UN MEMBERSHIP, BUT AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH CANNOT BE UTILIZED WITHOUT STRONG U.S. SUPPORT AND WITHOUT THE THREAT OF A U.S. VETO. IF WE STINT ON THAT SUPPORT OR REFUSE TO EMPLOY OUR VETO AGAINST THE TWO VIETNAMS SHOULD ROK MEMBERSHIP BE BLOCKED, KOREANS WILL SEE US AS HAVING LET THEM DOWN IN AN AREA OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO ROKG AND KOREAN PEOPLE. MY JUDGMENT IS THAT WE COULDN'T BEGIN TO GIVE KOREANS A CONVINCING EXPLANATION FOR HAVING FAILED TO BACK THEM UP ON THIS ISSUE.

5. WHILE I AM, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT THE KOREAN FACTOR IS ONLY ONE ELEMENT IN OUR DECISION ON HOW TO HANDLE UN MEMBERSHIP QUESTION, I STRONGLY URGE THAT ROKG'S POSITION BE GIVEN FULLEST CONSIDERATION.
SNEIDER

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